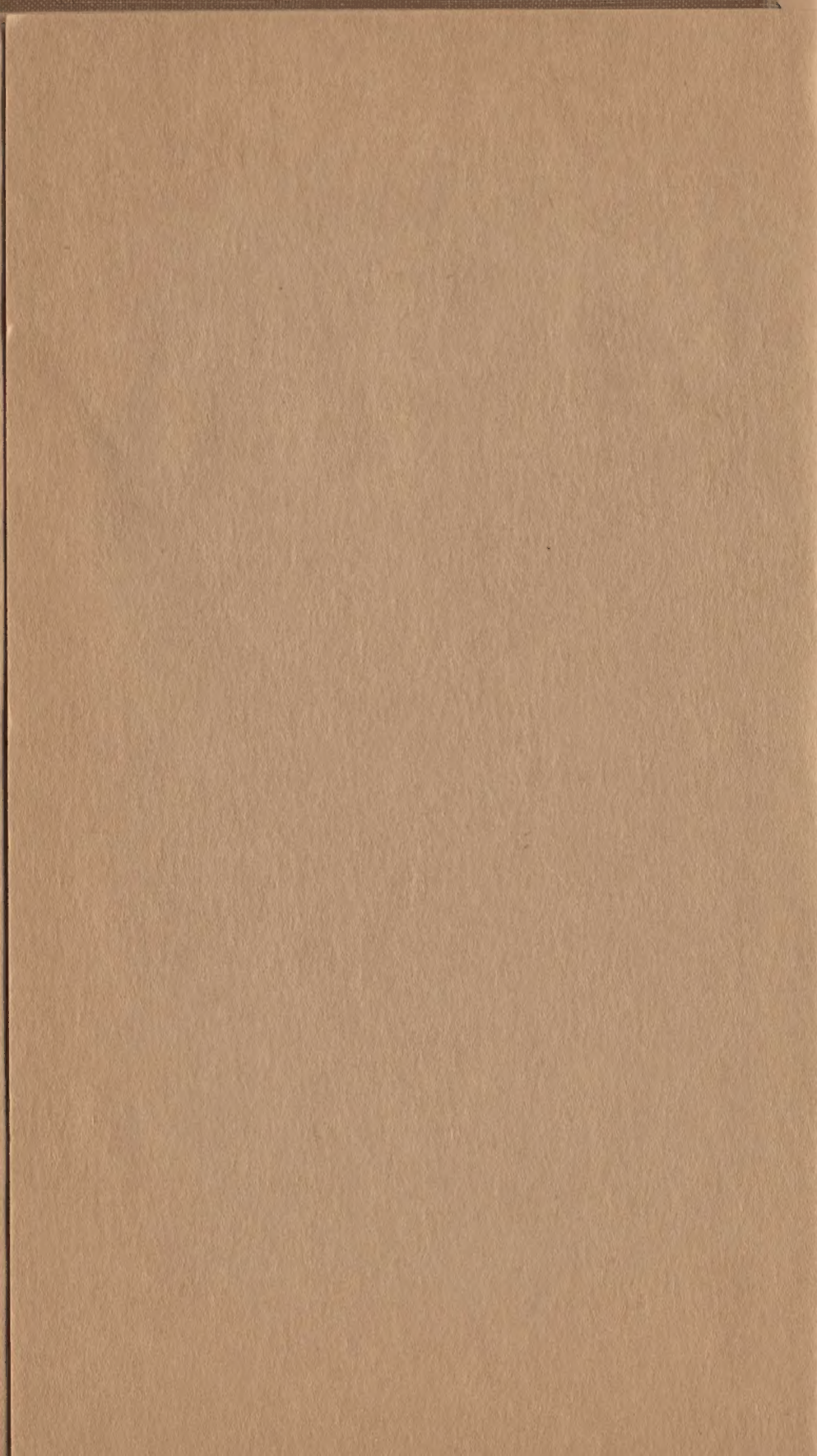
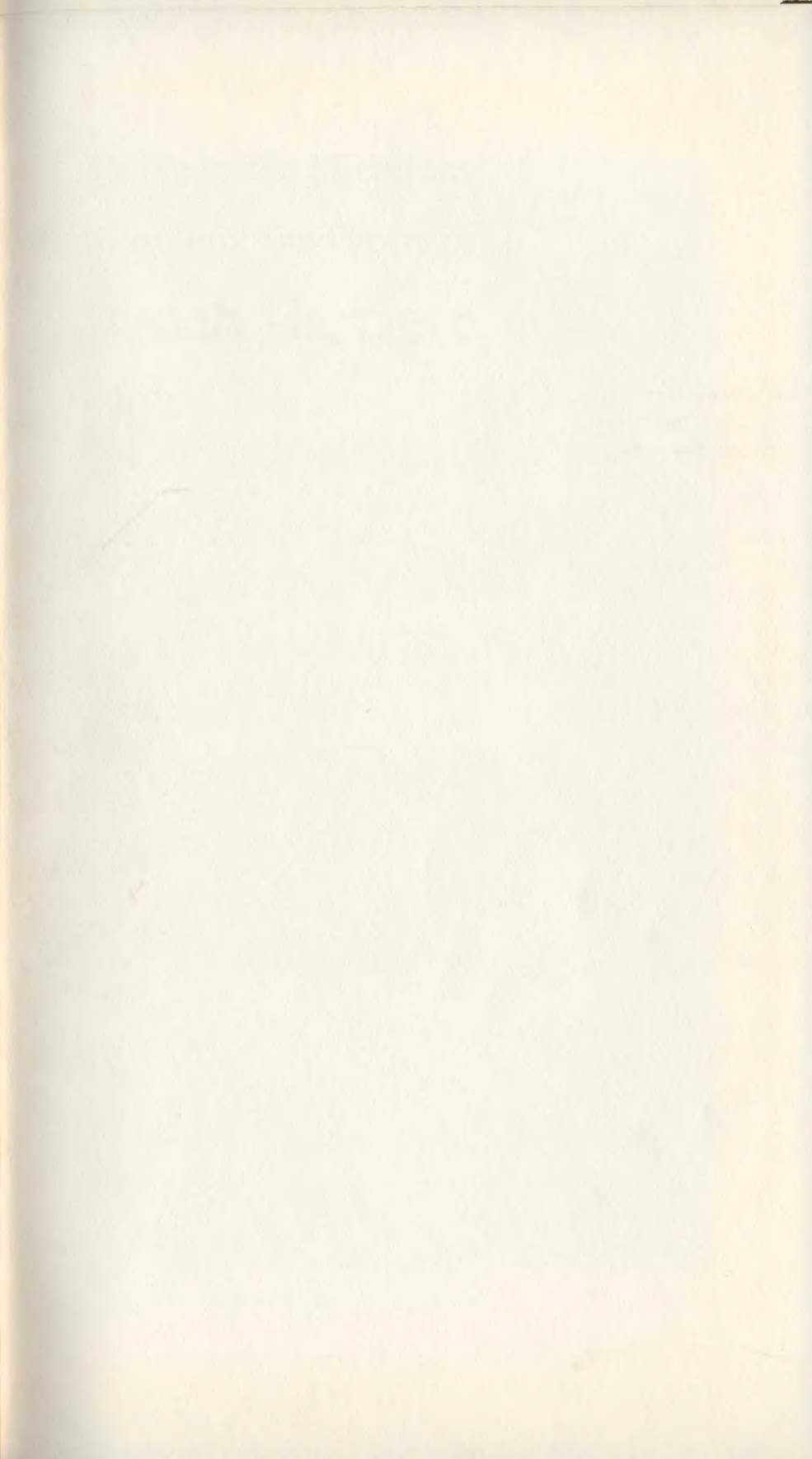


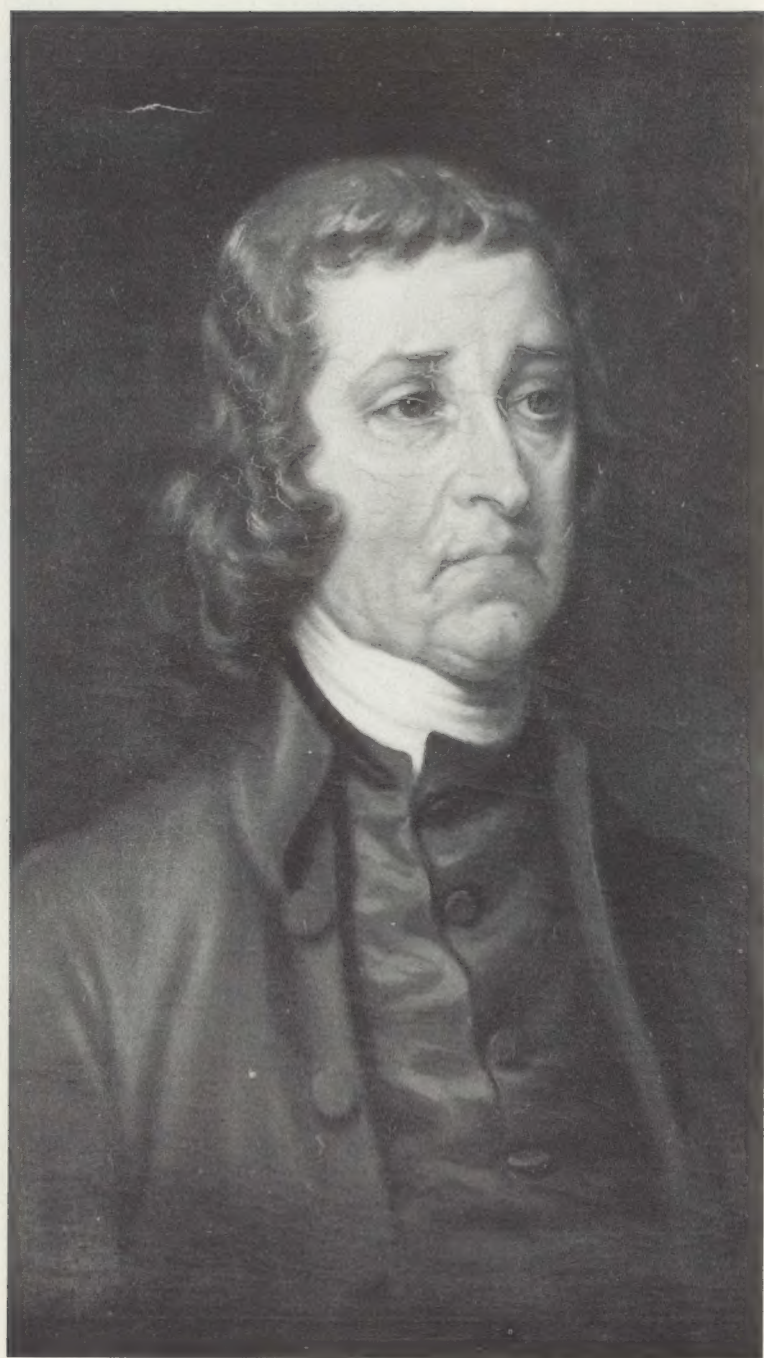
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Guide to the Microfilm
Edition of the Papers of
Josiah Bartlett



Frank C. Mevers, Editor

Guide to the Microfilm

Edition of the Papers of

Josiah Bartlett

(1729-1795)

The New Hampshire Historical Society

Concord, New Hampshire 1976

FRONTISPIECE: *Josiah Bartlett*

Portrait by Alonzo Slafter based on
a pencil sketch by John Trumbull, 1790.

New Hampshire Historical Society.

Photograph by Bill Finney

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Received of the Treasurer of the
 Board of Education the sum of
 Five hundred and twenty five
 Dollars and no cents for the
 year ending June 30, 1890.
 This receipt is given in full
 for the amount of the
 Treasurer's account for the
 year ending June 30, 1890.
 In witness whereof, I have hereunto
 set my hand and the seal of the
 Board of Education at New York
 City, this 1st day of July, 1890.
 Secretary of the Board of Education

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Foreword

Established by the General Court during the legislative session of 1969, the New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission was organized in the early summer of 1970. According to the statute, the Governor named twenty-five citizens of the state to the Commission. These members in turn selected their own officers. At its first meeting in June of 1970, the group named me Chairman of the Commission. Since that date much of my time and energy have been expended in seeking to carry out a far-reaching program of Bicentennial activities in New Hampshire and the nation. Fortunately, I have had the loyal support of the members of the Commission and of a small but highly competent staff.

An emphasis which seemed wise to all of us on the Commission was to undertake efforts that would have an enduring effect upon thoughtful minds in our state and in the nation as a whole. One such effort, we decided early in 1973, would be to arrange for the collection and publication of a comprehensive selection of the papers of Dr. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795). At the time of the American Revolution Dr. Bartlett was a citizen of Kingston, and already a figure of repute in New Hampshire. When the crisis came in 1775, he soon became one of the leaders among that galaxy of notable Americans who led in the successful struggle for national independence. When he died, he left behind him an unknown number of papers and records which, until now, have remained scattered and inaccessible. It was altogether fitting and proper, we felt, to make such a collection one of the chief endeavors of the New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

Having reached this conclusion, we joined with the New Hampshire Historical Society, which, we learned, had already evolved a plan for gathering, editing, and publishing all extant Bartlett papers. The Historical Society, which had

in its archives a mass of Bartlett manuscripts, agreed cosponsor the project. In the summer of 1974, with substantial financial backing from both the New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the National Historical Publications Commission, the effort began. We were fortunate to secure the services of Frank C. Mevers, a scholar with particular interest in the American Revolution, to direct the work. With the advantage of professional training in manuscript research, collation, and editing, he undertook the exciting task of finding and organizing Bartlett material. Combing both private and public collections, writing letters to scores of persons in this country and abroad, the editor has now prepared a microfilm edition of several thousand items, many of them previously unknown.

All students of New Hampshire and United States history will share with me a sense of pride in the work which has been done, and which will be continued in the future. Dr. Josiah Bartlett needs to be better known by those interested in the history of the state and nation. Physician, jurist, soldier, farmer, developer of scores of worthy community causes, member of the Continental Congress, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of New Hampshire for three terms, the first governor of New Hampshire, founder of the New Hampshire Medical Society, Josiah Bartlett was a worthy colleague of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and many of our nation's founding fathers. To read his writings is better to understand him and the part that he played two hundred years ago; to understand him is to learn how much there is to admire in him; to learn to admire him is to experience one of the lasting joys of our American Bicentennial.

New London, N.H.
5 January 1976

J. Duane Squires, Ph.D.
Chairman, New Hampshire
American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission

Introduction

Josiah Bartlett was born in 1729; his extant papers begin in 1743. By the time that New England was embroiled in the Great War for the Empire, Bartlett was practicing medicine in Kingston, New Hampshire, and treating men wounded in the frontier fighting. His papers, which include nearly every type of private and public document from the smallest personal receipt to the Declaration of Independence, reveal the diversity of life in eighteenth-century America, the great variety of personal, social, business, and public affairs in which one could engage.

The seven rolls of film are individually described in this guide. The purpose of the project has been to bring together all of Bartlett's extant papers in their original form wherever possible or alternatively through photocopies. To succeed, the project has relied on enormous contributions of many individuals. Most of the papers have remained within New Hampshire, although copies of documents from approximately eighty-five sources have been received.

When Bartlett's house burned in 1774, probably many of his papers were destroyed with it. Some of those that survived came to the New Hampshire Historical Society during the 1830s through a descendant, Richard Bartlett, a member of the Society. Others descended through the family to various institutions, a large group of correspondence finding its way to Dartmouth College. Many personal papers are still maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Rodney M. Wilson of Kingston. Mrs. Wilson, née Gertrude Bartlett, is a direct descendant of Governor Bartlett. The remaining personal papers are in the New Hampshire State Library and in scattered public and private collections throughout the country. Bartlett's public papers are principally in the New Hampshire State Archives and in county court records.

Editorial Method

When papers were received, they were read and filed chronologically. Because they came from many sources, each item was credited on the microfilm to its current holder or owner. Where it was difficult or impossible to obtain clear photocopies of original manuscripts, the staff prepared transcripts to be microfilmed with a copy of the original. No document available for filming in its original form was transcribed. Such an arrangement should benefit the researcher, making available the substance of the document in highly readable form while providing the original, even though the quality of the copy is impaired. It should be noted that the document filmed was always the closest to the original that could be found. In some cases this meant filming old photostats, old typescripts, and books.

In preparing the transcripts for the microfilm, an expanded form of editing was followed. A modernized dateline was usually provided for correspondence; otherwise the content was copied as closely as possible. Original spelling, capitalization, and abbreviation were left as they appeared in manuscript, with the following exceptions: all sentences were begun with a capital and ended with a punctuation mark; periods were added to end abbreviations that have periods in modern usage, as well as in abbreviated words that did not end in their usual last letter (Example: ult. for ultimo; but wod for would). Interlineated words and superior letters were brought down to the line. Words crossed through by the writer were omitted. Obvious slips of the pen, such as a word needlessly repeated, were corrected. In short, the transcribed documents have been made easily readable while peculiarities remain readily apparent in the originals.

Each document accessioned was assigned a number for administrative purposes. This number appears in the top right corner of its label. On the film these numbers serve only to keep multi-page items together. The labels also include the credit line and indications as to whether transcripts, enclosures, or printed versions follow. Bracketed words on transcripts and labels indicate editorial insertions.

Numbers at the top of each frame of microfilm were used for index and reference purposes. There are approximately seven hundred frames on each roll; frame numbers run consecutively throughout to facilitate indexing of the film. The loose papers were filmed chronologically. All film was shot at a 16:1 reduction ratio; light density adjustments and frame size adjustments were made for each frame according to the size of the various documents. Where frames had to be retaken they appear at the end of the roll on which they appeared imperfectly.

Papers known to have been written but which have not been found are not indicated. Those located before the forthcoming letterpress edition of Bartlett papers goes to press will be printed. Otherwise they will be cited in that edition.

Acknowledgments

A great many people were involved in the search for these papers as well as in their preparation for microfilm, and the editor is much indebted to all of them. As filer, organizer, transcriber, typist, and collator, Laura L. Hall has superbly assisted the editor from the beginning of the project. Her literary talent and historical knowledge has contributed immensely. Her spirit of involvement is deeply appreciated.

An expression of sincere gratitude goes to Harriet S. Lacy, retired manuscripts librarian of the Historical Society. Her knowledge of the Society's collections, her able assistance with many of the tasks required in the project, and her generous gift of time have enabled the project to be more complete and to overcome the pressure of deadlines.

John F. Page, director of the project as well as of the New Hampshire Historical Society, has contributed generously of his time and talent. For voluntary time and assistance given far beyond the call of duty the editor is indebted to several present and former members of the Historical Society's staff: Nancy Bartlett, Rita Camp, William N. Copeley, Richard C. Frantz, James L. and Donna-Belle Garvin, Jean G. Johnson, Katherine S. Morrill, Robinson Murray III, Joan

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Oakman, Martha J. Osgood, Mary Lyn Ray, R. Stuart Wallace, and Philip M. Zea.

For his effort in organizing the project as well as for his continuing support, deep appreciation is extended to Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., former assistant director of the Historical Society and currently director of the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts. All members of the Advisory Board have been supportive in many ways.

John W. Durel diligently uncovered many previously unknown public papers. Mary C. Mevers applied her typing expertise to many of the transcripts. Special notes of thanks are due also to Kathryn Mevers and Susan Murray.

Fred Shelley and Roger A. Bruns of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission gave freely of their advice. Richard Sheldon provided admirable service in searching repositories in the Washington, D.C. area, as did his colleagues on the NHPRC staff, Mary Giunta and Sara Dunlap Jackson. For their continuing support of the project, the editor is indeed grateful to Chairman J. Duane Squires, Gilbert S. Center, and the other members of the New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

This collection of papers would have been much less complete and our general knowledge of Dr. Bartlett more fragmentary without the generous cooperation shown in every way by Mr. and Mrs. Rodney M. Wilson of Kingston, New Hampshire. They and their family, descendants of the signer, have rendered every courtesy, for which the editor will remain eternally grateful. The enthusiastic support of all descendants of Josiah Bartlett is appreciated.

At Dartmouth College Kenneth C. Cramer and the staff of Baker Library were extremely helpful in providing copies of the College's collection of Bartlett papers, which are also available on a separate single roll of microfilm made by the Library in 1972. Thanks are due to the staff of the New Hampshire State Library, particularly to Avis Duckworth and Stella J. Scheckter. At the New Hampshire State Archives (known also as the Division of Records Management & Archives in the Department of Administration and Control) thanks go to its director, Robert A. Lauze, and to

his staff members, who cooperated in every way possible in making available copies of the numerous Bartlett items under their control: Mary E. Gammon, George Letourneau, and William S. Perry. Cooperation was extended by the clerks of court, registers of probate, registers of deeds, and their staffs in Rockingham, Strafford, Cheshire, Hillsborough, and Grafton counties.

The staffs of many manuscript repositories in the United States and in Europe searched their holdings. The following repositories, listed alphabetically by location, made their items available: Reynolds Historical Library, University of Alabama; Henry E. Huntington Library; Stanford University Library; Connecticut Historical Society; Yale University Library; Library of Congress, Manuscripts Division; Library of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Aurora College Library; Chicago Historical Society; Indiana University Library; Maine Historical Society; United States Naval Academy Library; United States Naval Academy Museum; John Work Garrett Library of the Johns Hopkins University; Amherst College Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; Boston Public Library; Mugar Memorial Library, Boston University; New England Historic Genealogical Society Library; Houghton Library, Harvard University; American Antiquarian Society; Federal Records Center, Waltham, Massachusetts; William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan; Minnesota Historical Society; Morristown National Historical Park; New Jersey Historical Society; Princeton University Library; The Phillips Exeter Academy; Peterborough Historical Society; Salisbury (N. H.) Historical Society; New York State Library; Washington's Headquarters Library; New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, Manuscript Division; New-York Historical Society; Pierpont Morgan Library; Cincinnati Historical Society; Western Reserve Historical Society; Marietta College Library; Haverford College Library; American Philosophical Society Library; Free Library of Philadelphia; Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Library Company of Philadelphia; Independence National Historical Park; Philip H. & A. S. W. Rosenbach Foundation; University of Pennsylvania Library; John Carter Brown Li-

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brary; Rhode Island Historical Society; Rhode Island State Library; Vermont Historical Society; and the Archives Nationales, Paris, France. Appreciation is extended to all.

For their generous contribution of copies of privately-owned manuscripts the editor is also grateful to Francis W. Bartlett, Ed Brummer, Mrs. A. C. Chisholm, Sol Feinstone, Mrs. Ferne Goonan, Mrs. Harriet K. Greer, Harold J. Hayes, Robert I. Hinkley, S. Bartlett Howard, Marius B. Péladeau, Warren A. Reeder, Peter Rice, J. Duane Squires, David Stahl, Captain J. G. M. Stone, Mrs. Samuel S. Sverdlik, Donald M. D. Thurber, Ronald von Klaussen, and Lloyd L. Wells. Others who warrant thanks for special interest shown in the project include Leon W. Anderson, Helen L. Cripe, Anne and Charles Eastman, Dana Parks, and Hamilton S. Putnam.

David Horne, Director of the University Press of New England, has offered sound advice in the preparation of this Guide. For technical expertise courteously supplied, appreciation is extended to Alan Rau, Tom Nardoizzi, William Perry, and David Petersen of Microfilm Services.

To all those who have given encouragement to the effort in a variety of ways the editor and staff are very grateful.

Chronology

- 21 November 1729 *Josiah Bartlett born at Amesbury, Massachusetts*
- c. 1746 *Began medical apprenticeship under Dr. Nehemiah Ordway*
- 1750 *Moved to Kingston, New Hampshire; began medical practice*
- 15 January 1754 *Married Mary Bartlett, a cousin*
- March 1757 *Elected as selectman of Kingston*
- May 1765 *First sat in N.H. House of Representatives*
- 25 June 1765 *Formed medical partnership with Dr. Amos Gale at Kingston*
- 27 February 1774 *House burned*
- 1774-1775 *Sat as a member of four N. H. provincial congresses*
- 14 December 1774 *Took secondary part in the raid on Fort William and Mary*
- 22 February 1775 *Dismissed from colonial offices by Royal Governor John Wentworth*
- 23 August 1775 *Elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia*
- 16 September 1775-18 March 1776; 18 May-26 October 1776 *Represented N.H. in the Continental Congress*

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- 12 June 1776: *Appointed to a Congressional committee to draft Articles of Confederation*
- 2 July 1776: *Voted to declare independence*
- 4 July 1776: *Voted for the draft of the Declaration of Independence*
- 2 August 1776: *Signed the engrossed copy of the Declaration*
- 6 January 1776 *Elected to the Executive Council (served until 1782)*
- c. 15 January 1776 *Appointed colonel of 7th regiment of militia*
- 26 January 1776 *Appointed a justice on the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for Rockingham County (served until 1782)*
- 20 December 1776 *Elected to represent N.H. at a New England economic conference, 25 December 1776–2 January 1777*
- August 1777 *Treated soldiers at the Battle of Bennington*
- 13 February 1778 *Appointed to state Board of War*
- 12 March 1778 *Reappointed as a delegate to the Continental Congress*
- 21 May–3 November 1778 *Served in the Continental Congress in York and Philadelphia*
- 9 July 1778: *Signed engrossed copy of Articles of Confederation*
- 16 March 1779 *Resigned command as colonel of 7th militia regiment*
- 14 November 1782 *Commissioned justice of the N.H. Superior Court*
- June 1784 *Served on commission to revise state laws*

- 13-22 February 1788; 18-21 June 1788 *Member of N.H. convention to consider ratification of Federal Constitution, served as chairman on first day of session*
- 12 November 1788 *Chosen to represent N.H. in United States Senate; declined same day*
- 4 June 1789 *Received 968 votes for state presidency, not elected*
- 14 July 1789 *Mary Bartlett died at Kingston*
- 18 January 1790 *Commissioned chief justice of Superior Court*
- 5 June 1790 *Elected president of New Hampshire, served three consecutive one-year terms*
- 16 February 1791 *Signed charter of N.H. Medical Society, elected president of the Medical Society*
- June 1793 *Elected governor of N.H. under 1792 constitution*
- 19 June 1793 *Resigned presidency of N.H. Medical Society*
- 22 February 1794 *Announced his resignation from public office effective June 1794*
- 19 May 1795 *Died at Kingston*



Biographical Sketch

Josiah Bartlett (1729–1795) ranks with the most important leaders in local and national government during the American Revolution. By choice he opposed the encroachments of the British Parliament and Crown, served in the Continental Congress, and voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence, thereby risking his life and property and entrusting his future to an untried American armed force.

His public service began in 1757 at Kingston, a town in southeastern New Hampshire then having a population of about 950. He had moved to Kingston in 1750 from Amesbury, Massachusetts, where he was born in 1729, the fourth son of Stephen and Hannah Webster Bartlett. Although Stephen Bartlett prospered locally at his trade of shoemaking, he was unable to send Josiah away for formal education. Evidence that Josiah nevertheless received basic formal education lies in his clear handwriting, meticulous recording of accounts and notes, and proper use of grammar and spelling.

In the mid-1740s he began to read books in the small library of a relative, Dr. Nehemiah Ordway of Amesbury, which led him to an interest in medicine. Following an apprenticeship of several years under Dr. Ordway, Josiah actively sought a place to practice. In 1750 the town of Kingston, about twelve miles northwest of Amesbury, suffered the loss of its resident physician. Although he possessed only the few items necessary to an eighteenth-century physician, Dr. Bartlett offered his services to its citizens. The records show that another young physician arrived on the scene at about the same time; but Bartlett apparently won his right to stay while the other man soon moved on.

Soon the young doctor, also an eligible bachelor, was sought after by the town's young ladies. However, a cousin, Mary Bartlett of Newton, won his lifelong devotion through

some humorous trickery, according to tradition. Going to Bartlett's residence late one stormy night in disguise, Mary appealed to him to come treat her ill brother. Bartlett willingly followed her to an abandoned farmhouse, where she teased him about his gullibility and laughed at his irritation. They were married in January 1754. By 1776 ten children had been born to the couple, eight of whom lived to maturity. Their three sons—Levi (b. 1763), Josiah (b. 1768), and Ezra (b. 1770)—all eventually followed their father's profession of medical practice in New Hampshire.

By the time of his marriage Dr. Bartlett had won widespread attention for two innovations in medical practice. Attacked by a raging fever in 1752, he was soon thought unlikely to survive by his attending physician, Dr. Ordway. However, on one particularly hot night he persuaded his attendants, against the orders of Dr. Ordway, to bring him some cider. The coolant, sipped during the night, brought down Bartlett's fever and induced him, from then on, to use cooling liquids for that purpose rather than the hot regimens theretofore regularly prescribed. Bartlett also introduced to the region the use of peruvian bark, or quinine, as an antiphlogistic during an outbreak of diphtheria in 1754-55.

By 1757 Bartlett had become prominent enough to secure his election as a selectman of the town. The town record books (Appendix A on the film) reveal much about his public business. As his medical practice grew, his patients relied on him as well for other duties, such as witnessing documents and settling estates. He performed many varied services for the town, payments for which are recorded in the records. As justice of the peace of Rockingham County, he so expanded his influence among his neighbors that when new elections to the colonial House of Representatives were called in the spring of 1765, he won the seat to represent Kingston.

When Bartlett took his seat in Portsmouth, he left Kingston's residents in the care of another local physician, Amos Gale, who had apprenticed under Bartlett's guidance, as had Josiah's nephew, Joseph Bartlett. Joseph had moved on to Salisbury, New Hampshire. Gale remained in Kings-

ton, and in June 1765 Gale and Bartlett formed a partnership that lasted three years.

From that time Bartlett remained in public office, gradually increasing his influence with his colleagues throughout New Hampshire. In the years prior to 1775 the series of events which led to the Revolution—the Stamp Act, the Townshend Duties, the Tea Act, the Intolerable Acts—brought about a hardening of feelings against Parliament among the citizens of New Hampshire, as they did throughout the American colonies. The resulting non-importation acts which Americans imposed on themselves only increased the severity of the trial.

When Fort William and Mary in Portsmouth harbor was raided in December 1774, Josiah Bartlett was not among the raiding party. Immediately upon learning that the raid had taken place, however, he ordered the militia in his area to be ready for any retaliatory acts that might be taken by the British. Governor John Wentworth, outraged by the raid, rescinded a number of public service commissions among which were those held by Dr. Bartlett as militia colonel and as justice of the peace. Bartlett had already wounded royal pride and announced his loyalty by taking part in New Hampshire's first three provincial congresses. He had refused appointment as a delegate to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia only because he felt obligated to remain with his wife and children throughout the autumn of 1774. His house had burned in February of that year and was being rebuilt to hold his large family.

The fourth provincial congress, begun in May 1775, witnessed the flight of Governor Wentworth that June. In August (the colonial House of Representatives having been adjourned by the exiled royal governor in July) the provincial congress again elected Dr. Bartlett to represent New Hampshire in the Continental Congress with John Langdon. By then another delegate, John Sullivan, had left Congress to lead New Hampshire's brigade in the Continental army. Bartlett bid his wife and family adieu in early September to begin his two-week journey to Philadelphia.

Arriving there in the midst of a smallpox epidemic, Bartlett was inoculated by Dr. Benjamin Rush. The Kings-

ton physician soon became active on several committees of Congress, one of the more important being the Marine Committee formed in December. Early in 1776 Langdon returned to Portsmouth, where he spent much of that year supervising construction of the frigate *Raleigh* for the Continental navy. Bartlett conveyed money, plans, and general advice to Langdon from the Marine Committee of Congress for the vessel, which was launched in May 1776. William Whipple joined Bartlett in Congress at the end of February, and together the two men managed to obtain for Langdon a commission as naval agent, so much desired by the Portsmouth merchant.

Bartlett visited his family during April 1776, probably bringing with him the copy of the Congressional resolve calling for Association Tests to be administered by colonial congresses or committees of safety. The New Hampshire Committee of Safety acted quickly to write the tests, and Bartlett signed the one for Kingston before returning to Philadelphia in May. While he had been with Congress, New Hampshire had adopted its first constitution, on 5 January, becoming the first of the thirteen colonies to adopt a written form of government independent of British review. The constitution called for establishment of an executive council of twelve members to act concurrently with a house of representatives. Even though absent, Bartlett was chosen to sit on the Council, a position he retained until 1782, when appointment to the Superior Court took precedence over the Council seat. The new General Court also chose him to lead the seventh regiment of New Hampshire militia and to sit as a justice on the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of Rockingham County.

Back in Philadelphia in June of 1776, Bartlett was appointed to a committee to draft Articles of Confederation for the colonies. It is believed that his contribution to that document was a strong assertion of states rights. With his fellow delegates he voted in favor of declaring independence from Britain on 2 July. On the fourth he was probably the first to vote aye for the document as drafted; and on 2 August he signed the engrossed copy of the document. His

letters comment on various activities of Congress as well as on many of the items of business that came before it. In late October he left Congressional affairs to William Whipple's attention and returned to the family he had not seen in six months.

During his long absence, however, Mary Bartlett had kept her husband well informed about family and community happenings. Her weekly letters, though they appear in several different handwritings, reveal that Mary was an educated woman. Not only was she in sole charge of running the farm on which the family subsisted, but she also had the responsibility of their eight children while Josiah was away; and there were several servants to supervise. A school in the town offered basic educational opportunities for the Bartlett children. In the late 1770s the eldest son, Levi, went to the Dummer School in Newbury, Massachusetts, for formal training, an opportunity his father had not enjoyed. Mary's life was hardened by her husband's frequent absences to attend sessions of Congress, the colonial and state legislatures, meetings of the Committee of Safety, court sessions, and other duties; but her letters seldom register complaints.

Business called Bartlett from home often for the remainder of his life. Much of 1777 was taken up with service on the Inferior Court, as a member of the Council during legislative sessions, and as a member of the Committee of Safety. In the summer of 1777 the legislature requested that he and Dr. Nathaniel Peabody go to Bennington, Vermont, where they treated soldiers wounded in the battle there.

In May 1778 Bartlett returned to the Continental Congress. During this term he signed the Articles of Confederation, which, though written in 1776, had not been finally adopted until November 1777, and which were not ratified by the states until 1781. He returned home in November 1778 to carry out his duties on the Council and the Inferior Court; he also retained his commission of justice of the peace in Rockingham County.

Bartlett's interest in the controversy over the jurisdiction of the towns in the upper Connecticut River Valley had

taken a considerable amount of his time in Congress. The secession movement continued to be of interest to him into his tenure as a justice on the state Superior Court, which took him on circuit duty to both Cheshire and Grafton counties, seats of the controversy. Josiah Bartlett served as a Superior Court justice from November 1782 until he was elected president of the state in June 1790. It was not until very early in 1790, before his election to the presidency, that he was appointed chief justice of the Superior Court.

In 1788 New Hampshire chose delegates to a convention in Concord which was to consider ratification of the Federal Constitution. The session first met in February, but it soon became obvious that time was needed to persuade a number of delegates to vote in favor of ratification of the document. Following a recess of several months, the convention reconvened in June. In a vote on the 21st, New Hampshire became the ninth state in the union to ratify the Constitution, giving it the force of law. Josiah Bartlett, who had served temporarily as chairman on the first day of the ratifying convention, was chosen as a United States Senator but felt compelled to decline the honor. His family required his attention, and he preferred to stay within the confines of New Hampshire.

In mid-summer of 1789 Bartlett lost his closest companion, his wife Mary. Personal business claimed a great deal of his time, as his account books testify. He continued to practice medicine, operate his farm, buy and sell land, and correspond with friends and colleagues.

For many years, according to the memoirs written by his son, Dr. Bartlett had held informal meetings of regional physicians in the parlor of his home. He had frequently expressed the hope that standards could be established, with the intent of raising the quality of medical treatment in the state. These meetings culminated during his first term as New Hampshire's president in a legislative act on 16 February 1791 chartering the New Hampshire Medical Society.

Bartlett was elected the first president of the Society, and was highly instrumental in writing its charter and rules. The charter sought to ensure discipline within the profes-

sion. In addition to its responsibility of examining all candidates who wanted to practice medicine in the state, the Society had the right to elect, suspend, expel, or disfranchise fellows. Certain educational qualifications were set up for those requiring admission to the profession. Although the New Hampshire Medical Society was neither the first of its kind nor unique in its structure, the efforts of Bartlett and his colleagues resulted in another immense contribution to the formalization and legalization of medical practice in the United States.

Following the adoption of a highly-revised state constitution in 1792, Josiah Bartlett capped his public service career by serving one term as governor of the state, 1793-94. His four years as leader of New Hampshire witnessed steady growth and calm government. The years following the Revolution had been ones of turmoil attributed to economic hardship. Politics too had been unstable, as factions led by John Langdon, John Sullivan, and others vied for leadership of the state. Bartlett brought a steadying hand to a scene already beginning to moderate after the harshness of the 1780s. Unlike some of his contemporaries, he was as able to lead in a time of stability as he had been during the turbulent years of the Revolution.

Josiah Bartlett took considerable pride in his family. Four of his daughters had married into the Greeley, Calef, True, and Gale families. His three sons all became physicians. Ezra settled in Haverhill, New Hampshire. Josiah, Jr., who lived in Stratham by the 1790s, later served in the United States House of Representatives. Levi remained in the homestead his father had built at Kingston and which continues in family ownership today. There are indications that Bartlett was in ill health during the last few years of his life. Knowing that the end was near, he wrote his will in February 1795. The precise cause of his death on 19 May is uncertain.

Perhaps his greatest contribution to America was voting for and standing firmly behind American independence. He himself probably considered his greatest achievement to be the establishment of the New Hampshire Medical Society.

Bibliographical Note

No complete biography of Josiah Bartlett has been published. Microfilm and printed sources easily available to researchers of the signer have until now been limited. The collection of Josiah Bartlett correspondence in the Dartmouth College Library was microfilmed in a one-roll edition, "Papers of Josiah Bartlett in the Years 1774—1794," in 1972. Many of Dartmouth's papers, with others, were published in Edmund C. Burnett, ed., *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*, 8 vols. (Washington, D.C.: The Carnegie Institution, 1921—38). Otherwise, few of Bartlett's papers have been published previously. Some public papers and correspondence were included in Nathaniel Bouton, et al., eds., *Documents and Records Relating to New Hampshire*, 40 vols. (Concord and Manchester, 1867—1943), especially volumes VII, VIII, XX, XXI, and XXII, which cover the years of the Revolution. Bartlett's activities while in the Continental Congress may be followed best in Worthington C. Ford, et al., eds., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774—1789*, 34 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904—37).

The better biographical sketches are those by James F. Colby in Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, eds., *Dictionary of American Biography*, 22 vols. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928—44), and Dumas Malone, *The Story of the Declaration of Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1954). For discussions highlighting Bartlett's interest in medicine, see Hamilton S. Putnam, ed., *The New Hampshire Medical Society: A History* (Milford, N.H.: The Cabinet Press, 1966) and Frank C. Mevers, "Josiah Bartlett: Physician/Jurist/Patriot," *The Journal of Legal Medicine* (July—August 1975). An article concerning Bartlett's participation on the Congressional committee to draft the Articles of Confederation is Elwin L. Page, "Josiah Bartlett and the Federation," *Historical New Hampshire* (October 1947). Nancy Elaine Briggs Oliver, "Keystone of the Federal Arch: New Hampshire's Ratification of the United States Constitution" (Ph.D. diss., University of California, 1972), deals specifically with Bartlett's participation in the New

Hampshire convention on the Federal Constitution.

Biographical sketches of note include J. Duane Squires, "Portrait of a Patriot: Josiah Bartlett," *New Hampshire Echoes* (November–December 1972); Charles W. Eastman, Jr., "Josiah Bartlett: Patriot Practitioner," *New Hampshire Profiles* (April 1974); Charles and Anne Eastman, "Josiah Bartlett," *New Hampshire Profiles* (March 1976); Frank C. Mevers, "Josiah Bartlett: Dedicated Physician, Sterling Patriot," *Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin* (March–April 1976). Other citations to Bartlett may be found in *New Hampshire's Role in the American Revolution 1763–1789: A Bibliography* (New Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1974), which is available through the New Hampshire State Library.

Excellent surveys of the Revolutionary period of New Hampshire which include extensive commentary on Bartlett are Jere R. Daniell, *Experiment in Republicanism: New Hampshire Politics and the American Revolution, 1741–1794* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970) and Richard F. Upton, *Revolutionary New Hampshire* (Hanover: Dartmouth College Publications, 1936).



Description of the Microfilm Rolls

Roll 1, frames 1-794

(1743-18 March 1776)

The Guide with index and a list of items filmed open the first roll. This and the loose papers bring roll 1 well into the war years of the American Revolution. The first item is Bartlett's school copy book, dated 1743, showing practice with several subjects in which he became proficient. As he began his medical career, Bartlett needed supplies, for which bills of sale and receipts are included from Hannah Kent, Daniel Rogers, Edmund Sawyer, Josiah Gilman, Ammi R. Cutter, Thomas and Joseph Stickney, John Pickering, and other dealers in medical supplies. There are receipts for his medical services and correspondence with Hannah Kent, Joseph Manning, William Parker, Timothy White, Josiah Gilman, Nathaniel Folsom, Meshech Weare, Matthew Thornton, and John Sullivan.

In his public capacity as Kingston selectman and Rockingham County justice of the peace, he signed deeds, orders to pay, certifications of accounts, warnings out of town, examinations, attachments on property, warrants, and other items. A few of these, most notably deeds, reflect his private transactions as well. There are also items bearing on his services to several towns including Warren, Perrystown (now Sutton), and East Kingston. A justice of the peace record book, beginning 6 March 1771, is on this roll.

There are brief minute books for the early years of his practice, for 1772, and for 1774. His agreement to form a partnership with Dr. Amos Gale in June 1765 is included. There are several items relating to his service in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and also several items resulting from service on the County Court of General Sessions of the Peace. A few papers derive from his militia

service. In September 1775 he took a seat in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. His mileage sheet for a visit home in March 1776 completes this roll.

Roll 2, frames 812-1492

(24 March 1776 -29 September 1778)

This roll contains both the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation, with papers and comments pertaining to both. Correspondents include William Whipple, Pierse Long, Mary Bartlett, John Langdon, Meshech Weare, Nathaniel Folsom, Levi Bartlett, George Frost, and Samuel Philbrick. The Association Test, signed by citizens of Kingston, is included. While in Philadelphia attending the Continental Congress, Bartlett incurred many personal expenses, receipts for payment of many of which were preserved among his papers. The roll also covers his appointment to the Rockingham County Inferior Court of Common Pleas, reports written as chairman of various committees of the legislature as a result of his seat on the Executive Council, and militia orders, muster rolls, and payrolls.

In December 1776, upon returning from his first term in the Continental Congress, Bartlett represented New Hampshire at a convention of New England states on economic problems. The journal for that convention is included. Also on film are papers relating to his services at the battle of Bennington in August 1777. Some items pertaining to his service on the New Hampshire Committee of Safety are on this roll.

Roll 3, frames 1520-2167

(1 October 1778-9 July 1782)

Much of roll 3 is devoted to those cases heard by the Court of Common Pleas for which Bartlett signed judgments. Over time, he attained greater prominence on the Court and appears to have signed more of the judgments. In many court cases some documents were omitted in order to keep

the film to reasonable length. Always the earliest dated document and the judgment were included. The cases offer insight into the problems of individuals of every degree of economic affluence in the region during those turbulent years. There were usually four judges presiding over each hearing. All cases that came before the Inferior Court of Rockingham County for these years were preserved under the jurisdiction of the Clerk of Superior Court of the County, and all were indexed by someone long ago in large hand-written volumes. Using the case or record numbers, each individual case-packet of papers can usually be found.

Correspondents on this roll include Mary Bartlett, Samuel Philbrick, Meshech Weare, William Whipple, Nicholas Gilman, John Langdon, John Taylor Gilman, Nathaniel Peabody, Nathaniel Folsom, Jonathan Chase, Roger Sherman, and Phillips White. Documents from Bartlett's continuing service on the Committee of Safety, the Executive Council, and as a justice of the peace appear also.

Roll 4, frames 2195-2893

(30 July 1782-24 September 1791)

Inferior court records continue on this roll for two more sessions, until Bartlett took his seat on the state Superior Court in November 1782. He also served on the Committee of Safety until going on the Superior Court, and remained a justice of the peace throughout the 1780s. He particularly kept up correspondence with Congressional delegates from the state—Phillips White, Jonathan Blanchard, Abiel Foster, and Paine Wingate. Up to 1782 also he continued to write legislative committee reports, which are here and represent primarily his judgment on the issues in question.

Following 1782 he rode circuit to serve on the Superior Courts in the five New Hampshire counties—Rockingham, Strafford, Hillsborough, Cheshire, and Grafton. The cases that he heard were all recorded in permanent records books, which remain in the custody of the clerks of the respective courts. Because there were no individually signed judg-

ments maintained for these cases, only a few cases were filmed from the record books.

On this roll are letters on both personal and political matters with John Taylor Gilman, Nathaniel Peabody, John Dudley, John Langdon, John Pickering, Jeremy Belknap, William Gardner, John Wheelock, John Sullivan, Oliver Whipple, William Williams, Samuel Ashley, and William Page. Bartlett wrote to Dr. Benjamin Rush in 1783 requesting advice in reference to his daughter's health.

In 1788 Bartlett was elected to the state convention to consider ratification of the Federal Constitution. The convention kept no records of its debates, but the list of members together with the sparse documentation remaining indicates that he played a leading part in obtaining ratification. Bartlett served as temporary chairman of the convention for its first day of the first session, 13 February 1788. For the new Federal Government Bartlett was chosen to sit in the Senate. He declined for reasons of health, but it was his wife who died suddenly in July 1789.

In June 1790, following a disputed election, the General Assembly chose Bartlett as president of the state, a position analogous to that of governor. In that office he received official letters from Alexander Hamilton and Samuel Otis, which are included here along with other papers written, signed, and received by the president. He signed acts passed by the Assembly, all of which may be read in original form as well as in record copy at the New Hampshire State Archives, where they are bound in chronological order. The acts signed by Bartlett while president and governor from 1790 to 1794 are also printed in *Laws of New Hampshire*, volumes 4, 5, and 6 (Concord and Bristol, 1916-17).

In February 1791 the Assembly passed and Dr. Bartlett signed an act incorporating the New Hampshire Medical Society. The act is on the film, followed by the printed laws and regulations of the Society.

Roll 5, frames 2923-3631

(October 1791-May 1795; partly dated items; undated items; Appendix A, Kingston Town Records)

This roll completes the loose papers up to Bartlett's death in May 1795. He won election to the presidency again in 1792 and to the governorship in 1793 under the state constitution adopted in 1792. Papers relating to these offices, signed by Bartlett or addressed to the office, have been included—minutes of meetings of the Executive Council, executive nominations, certifications of accounts, certifications of electors, certifications of election returns, resignations of office-holders, recommendations, commissions, and petitions from individuals or towns. Proclamations, orders to pay, militia orders, and approvals of legislative resolutions all reveal the complexities of state government and Bartlett's handling of problems.

Correspondents on this roll include John Langdon, Paine Wingate, Nathaniel Peabody, Nicholas Gilman, George Gains, John Taylor Gilman, Jeremy Belknap, Thomas Jefferson, Jeremiah Smith, Henry Knox, Timothy Walker, Jr., William Williams, and John Wheelock.

In February 1795 Josiah Bartlett wrote his will and began to complete his accounts. The oration read at his funeral concludes the chronological part of the roll.

A few items carry only partial dates and could not be more precisely determined. These and undated material follow the chronological sequence.

Appendix A (beginning with frame 3558) consists of manuscript volumes 2 and 3 of Kingston Town Records for the years Bartlett was particularly active in town affairs, 1757–71. It was considered more valuable to present these as a unit rather than to single out the individual pages on which Bartlett appears.

Roll 6, frames 3662–4395

(Appendix B, Account Books, 1751–1790)

Appendix B takes up all of roll 6 and follows into roll 7. Account books comprise all of Appendix B. The Index Ledger and volume 1 and most of volume 2 of the account books are included. The Index Ledger, from the New Hampshire State Library, indicates names to be found in

Account Books 1 and 2 in the State Library. Most of volume 3 refers to accounts of one of Josiah's sons. These books begin in 1751 and record daily activities into the 1760s. The account books comprising Appendix B run into 1790. Researchers of the period, of the region, or of business or medical practice should find these books rewarding.

Roll 7, frames 4423-5221

(Appendix B, Account Books; Memoirs; Public Accounts)

Appendix B continues on this roll, which begins with page 1001 (13 August 1762) of volume 2 of the bound account books in the New Hampshire State Library. Those account books run through page 1272 (frame 4562).

Account books from the New Hampshire Historical Society follow, beginning with a shorter one spanning the years 1765-68 (frames 4564-4732) and probably reflecting the business of the medical partnership of Dr. Amos Gale with Bartlett. It should be noted that many missing pages from this volume and from volumes 1 and 2 of the account books from the State Library were rebound in a third volume, but here have been filmed in their original sequence.

One large volume from the Historical Society contains entries similar to the account books, but has always been referred to as Bartlett's Day Book. It covers 1764-90 and contains 758 pages (frames 4736-5119). Like the others, it contains a daily record of various business and medical activities and shows that Bartlett continued to practice medicine in the years following the Revolution.

A much smaller docket of the same style but called a Minute Book follows (frames 5121-5123). Included next are three alphabetical indexes which have been among Bartlett's papers in Kingston but which do not appear to collate with the surviving accounts. This is believed to be an index to business ledgers which have not been found.

Appendix C (frames 5148-5176) is a manuscript from the Historical Society entitled "The Memoirs of his late Excellency Josiah Bartlett first Governor of the State of New-

hampshire." These were probably written by his eldest son, Levi.

Appendix D (frames 5178-5221), various records of Bartlett's public accounts, completes the film. These were found at the New Hampshire State Archives and at the National Archives. They are arranged chronologically.

Bibliography of Printed Sources Filmed

Some of Bartlett's papers, other than printed broadsides, were available only in published sources. This is a list of those books from which individual items were filmed. Detailed reference information appears with each item on the film.

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